



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, February 7, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report that President Trump has submitted additional legal briefs to the appeals court in San Francisco in support of his executive order on immigration. TV Asahi led with a report that President Trump defended his immigration order again on Monday. NTV, TBS, and Fuji TV gave top play to reports on the Diet deliberations on "amakudari," the practice of retired bureaucrats acquiring lucrative jobs in sectors they oversaw.

SECURITY

Secretary Tillerson says Senkakus fall under scope of U.S.-Japan Security Treaty

NHK reported this morning that Foreign Minister Kishida and Secretary of State Tillerson held their first teleconference this morning. Kishida later disclosed to reporters that Secretary Tillerson expressed the view that the Senkaku Islands fall under the scope of Article 5 of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty. FM Kishida also told reporters after the meeting that he shared the view with the Secretary that strong U.S. leadership is needed for world peace and prosperity, and agreed to work together closely and continue to make efforts to further strengthen the alliance. The network said they also agreed to meet in the near future. All commercial networks carried similar stories, quoting Kishida as also saying: "We made a good start. We decided to call each other Rex and Fumio."

President Trump planning to say Senkakus fall under scope of security treaty

Fuji TV reported at noon that final arrangements are being made for President Trump to state during the upcoming summit with Prime Minister Abe on Feb. 10 that the Senkaku Islands fall under the scope of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, according to a senior USG official. Noting that

Secretary of Defense Mattis also said during his visit to Japan that the Senkakus are covered by the security treaty, the network said President Trump and his close aides have expressed the view that it would be unproblematic for the President to reiterate this.

Results of Onaga's U.S. visit questionable

Okinawa Times wrote that in response to the paper's question to Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services John McCain ahead of Okinawa Governor Onaga's visit to Washington last week whether he would meet with the governor, Senator McCain asked what the purpose of his visit was and why he should meet with the Okinawa leader. The Senator reportedly added that although the governor plans to use his administrative authority to stop the FRF construction at Henoko, it is clear that it will be impossible to suspend the construction. Onaga had apparently thought that Sen. McCain, who once proposed that the plan to build a replacement facility off Camp Schwab be reexamined, would sympathize with him. However, the Senator now believes that the GOJ will steadily move forward with the FRF construction as scheduled. The paper wrote that although Onaga insists that he achieved "great success" through his meetings with 12 U.S. lawmakers in Washington last week, it is questionable whether he was able to discuss specific ideas for derailing the Henoko plan with these lawmakers. Representative Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI) told the paper that she understood the governor's argument that mainland Japan should share the base-hosting burden with Okinawa, but she has no recollection of the governor calling for the U.S.-Japan agreement and existing relocation plan to be reviewed.

- [Japan secures Tillerson's assurance on Senkaku Islands](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gist of Okinawa governor's news conference at end of U.S. visit](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [Okinawa delegation accompanying governor meets with nearly 100 U.S. officials](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [In reversal of position, MOD says electronic version of PKO daily logs has been kept](#) (Mainichi)
- [Ocean policy minister visits Tsushima](#) (Yomiuri)

INTERNATIONAL

Vice finance minister leaves for Washington ahead of summit

All networks reported at noon that Vice Finance Minister for International Affairs Asakawa left for Washington this morning to attend a working-level meeting to lay the groundwork for the upcoming summit on Feb. 10. He was quoted as telling reporters before his departure: "I would like to explain Japan's position and gain understanding." Noting that President Trump has been criticizing Japan's

auto market and currency policy, NTV said the GOJ has judged it necessary to explain to the Trump administration that Japanese automakers are creating jobs in the U.S. and that Japan's policy of monetary easing is not intended to manipulate the yen.

- [Ex-vice foreign minister on upcoming Abe-Trump summit](#) (Yomiuri)
- [MOFA director general sent to U.S. to identify President Trump's close aides](#) (THEMIS)
- [LDP policy chief expects Abe to stay calm and convey the truth in Japan-U.S. summit](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: President Trump](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [U.S. car sales in Japan sluggish](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Toshiba's meager chip offering draws tepid interest](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [China's Citic Capital to invest \\$260m in Japanese firms](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Korean resident union chief asks ROK foreign minister to remove statue](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Abe needs to convince Trump of importance of stability in Asia](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Defense Secretary Mattis' visit should signal the beginning of a stronger alliance](#) (Sankei)
- [Kazamidori column: How will Abe, Trump call their style of Japan-U.S. relationship?](#) (Nikkei)
- [Top trade negotiator from era of Japan-bashing says cool-headed persuasion is key](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Japan-U.S. security framework needs to help reduce tensions](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Mattis](#) (Akahata)
- [Koga says Abe should "refrain" from playing golf with President Trump](#) (Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Feb. 6](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP, Nippon Ishin move closer in light of Koike's growing influence](#) (Sankei)
- [DP wary of members defecting to Tokyo governor's party](#) (Asahi)

ECONOMY

[METI Minister Seko to accompany PM Abe at summit in Washington](#)

NHK reported this morning that Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Seko told reporters today that he will accompany Prime Minister Abe to his first summit with President Trump in Washington later this week to explain that Japanese manufacturers are creating jobs in the U.S. Seko reportedly said: "Although it is not yet confirmed, I would like to accompany the prime minister if the Diet schedule permits and support him at the summit on such issues as economy and trade." Seko also reportedly said: "We would like to explain that the Japanese auto industry creates about 1.5 million jobs in the U.S., and exchange views in order to obtain from the U.S. the understanding that unlike when there was trade friction between our two nations, we are now in an economic relationship of mutual dependence."

- [Rice growers abandoning farmland in droves](#) (Nikkei)
- [GOJ cites saburoku for refusing to ratify ILO convention governing work hours](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Keidanren names 4 new vice chairs](#) (The Japan News)

SCIENCE

- [Ministry of the Environment proposes introducing carbon pricing](#) (Mainichi)
- [AI to be used to reduce time to evaluate chemical substances](#) (Nikkei)

EDUCATION

- [Gov't panel mulls limiting new universities in Tokyo](#) (Kyodo News)
- [State-backed scholarship program to open doors to university](#) (The Japan Times)

TV PROGRAMS

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The era of “fake news”

NHK'S "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported that President Trump's tweets are sending shockwaves across the globe every day as they spread worldwide via his followers. While the media is claiming that many of the President's tweets are groundless, he in turn is criticizing the media by calling some of their reports "fake news." In addition, "fake news" articles created during the presidential campaign caused a great deal of confusion, even leading to a shooting incident. The program said many citizens today only pay attention to the news they want to hear and often don't care if the news is real or not, adding that it has become difficult to distinguish whether news stories are real or fake. The program also reported on the danger of the truth being distorted and spread on the Internet, stressing the importance of "media literacy."

